

Shrewsbury Historical Society

Spring 2011

2010 Census

•Census Count

2000 – 3,590

2010 – 3,809

•Change by %

+ 6.10%

•Population

Change +
219.

In Memoriam

Barbara W. Latham

August 27, 2009

Helen Lafetra Borden

Close

May 11, 2010

Hermann Alexander

Allen October 11, 2010

Frances Bennett Deiss

January 11, 2011

Autumn Party 2010!

Marc and Laura Feaster hosted the SHS Annual Autumn Party at their magnificently appointed home at 457 Sycamore Avenue on Sunday evening, October 24, 2010. The warmth of the late afternoon greeted more than 125 guests who marveled at the talents of local caterer Tony Balderose Catering. Sponsored by Bill and Kathy Dodge, Tony, a local Shrewsbury resident, apprenticed in some of New Jersey's finest restaurants, before becoming Executive Chef at Balducci's in New York City. He has been an Executive Chef in Manhattan for the past 12 years and is a graduate from the Culinary Institute of America. An adequate abundance of hors d'oeuvres, highlighted by a pool side seafood and sushi offering

quickly delighted all attendees. A vast selection of wines expertly selected and contributed by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Lynn complimented the entire Tony Balderose Catering presentation. The guests lingered well into the evening enjoying the warmth of the huge outside fireplace at the southern boundary of the pool area of the Feaster's residence.

Among the guests was Linda Lees who returned to 457 Sycamore Avenue, a home she and her husband Richard occupied for many years. Linda marveled at the changes made to the home by the Feasters and regaled in stories of living in the house and her many fond memories of Shrewsbury's past. As is typical with every SHS Autumn party, many volunteers and

contributors support this event. Mitch Ansell loaned his golf cart, expertly driven by Karl Degenhart, to transport guests down winding path to the Feaster's home. Kelly Jones and Denise McCann assisted with the food service. The Shrewsbury Borough Police helped ease crossing on Sycamore Avenue. Shrewsbury Hose Company #1 provided the ice for the beverages. The Shrewsbury Garden Club provided floral arrangements complimenting other table arrangements prepared by hostess Laura Feaster and caterer Tony Balderose. Paul David provided an array of dinner and table ware. Local decorator Betsy Berner supplied the photo for the invitation. Long maintaining the tradition of presenting the hosts with a gift of appreciation, local artist Penny Ticehurst prepared a watercolor sketch of the Feaster home. This work adds to the vast collection of paintings she has done of the hosts' homes along Sycamore and Broad Streets. And Trustee Patti Kurdyla captured the event in a collection of photographs now on display at SHS.



Hermann Allen

When news spread across Shrewsbury in October that Mr. Allen had passed, Councilman Bill Dodge, immediately responded, "we have lost a great one; his soul will live forever in Shrewsbury". Hermann was an advocate for the betterment of Shrewsbury. Whether it be for his decade plus counsel to the Environmental Commission, his watch over the Shade Tree Commission, his precision with the Zoning Board and the Planning Board, his insight to Borough Council during public Council meetings: when Mr. Allen stepped forward, people listened. Born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, a graduate of the Merchant Marine Academy, a stellar career in the marine and ocean industry, an honor recipient of many

professional awards, a temporary resident in several U.S. locations & overseas communities, ultimately Hermann and Barbara settled in Shrewsbury, which was "home". When 10:00 a.m. came each Saturday, Mr. Allen posted the "OPEN" signs and he welcomed all to tour the SHS building. He shared his knowledge of the history of Shrewsbury, painted walls, puttied windows, caulked tiles, sanded railings, vacuumed carpets, changed light bulbs, weeded unwanted thistle, power washed siding, filed clippings, built displays—all interspersed with invaluable conversation. An honorary life member of SHS, Hermann and his fellow Thornbrooke neighbor, Jack Wilson,

took particular pride in building the model of the Allen House, which now takes up permanent residence at SHS. Engineer and artist built a treasure for generations to appreciate. We will miss him.

Shrewsbury Photos



SHS has recently received a collection of colorful photographs taken through the camera lens of Carolann McLoughlin, Patterson Avenue. The collection includes photos of various buildings and street scenes within Shrewsbury. While it is difficult to pin point the actual date of the photos, it is believed the photos were taken in the mid-'90s. Carolann formerly

chronicled the happenings of Shrewsbury as the former editor of the boro newsletters, "***The Inside Shrewsbury***" (1982-1987) and "***The Sequel***" (1989-1990). Copies of these newsletters are on file at SHS.

Recently Gifted Items

SHS hours are 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday. This schedule is subject to change and it is advisable to confirm a visit via a call to 732-530-7974 or 732-747-3635.

Forrester—break front, books, fossils, NJ License plate, Vietnam radio, scythe, Indian war pieces; Dodge—oak plant stand, oak desk with rattan sides, barrister case and desk, bar stool, rocker, two mahogany book cases, reception table, oak office arm chair; Lynn—three wooden book cases, books, Tallman carriage case; Mazzucca/Slocum—poster board of family history; Wilson, poster board of Allen House & Shrewsbury

Post Office; Burden—Shrewsbury milk bottle; Gwyn-Williams—Monmouth County map, Shrewsbury Railroad sign; Blair—1947 SBS Board of Education documents; Stone—tools, ; Allen—bookcase, books, Journals of Steamboat Historical Society; Cline—1781 Will of Abraham Buckelew; Scordo—piano chair; Borden—piano chair.

Spring Sprucing Up

Thanks to two generous contributions from two SHS Trustees, their funding supported major spring sprucing up to ensure that the building is property maintained. The entrance foyer, hallway display areas, both bathrooms, and the kitchen workshop area are now sporting a fresh coat of paint. Trustees Jay and Leslie Eaton brought their

decorating skills to play in the selection of the lighter paint color scheme, "Navajo Aura", replacing the tired Wedgwood Blue (1984). Frank Scordo, a friend of SHS, offered his carpentry talents to replace one of the bathroom doors and frame. Trustee Mark Degenhart and his son Karl re-hung the pictures, certificates, and maps for

all visitors to examine. New mirrors have been hung in the bathrooms. All visitors to the building will immediately notice the bright and cheerful welcoming atmosphere when entering the building.

SHS Houses a Pump Organ

Spotting an announcement by the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey's of the availability of an 1895 Victorian Peerless parlor pump organ, the SHS acted quickly to determine if the Society's museum might be a suitable home to showcase this period piece. Mr. & Mrs. Fred Petersen, Manasquan, invited SHS President Don Burden and Treasurer Mary Lea Burden along with Trustees Jay & Leslie Eaton to come to their home to examine the organ and to determine if SHS were to be entrusted with it. Gifting was subsequently completed. Made of oak, the organ has fine graining of quarter sewn oak in the bottom part of the "parlor furniture" with very elaborate decoration on

top. Research in Gellerman's International Reed (Antique Pump) Organ Atlas, 2nd Ed. Robert Gellerman, coupled with an email to the author, revealed that the maker of the Peerless Organ was the Foley & Williams Organ Company, Cincinnati, OH. The factory moved to Kankakee, IL, in 1902 and continued business through 1919. It is speculated that the organ may have been originally purchased through Sears & Roebuck, Chicago, IL. This particular organ originally belonged to Mrs. Petersen's family residing in a family farm house in the Hightstown, NJ area. Trustee Mark Degenhart and Eagle Scout son Karl, along with the Burdens, trucked the organ in two pieces to the SHS museum. Christ Church organist Chris Psolka-Green and her husband intrigued by

the recent acquisition were determined to "get it working". Using a carpet vacuum to "blow air" into the bellows, Chris managed a shortened rendition of Stephen Forster's "My Old Kentucky Home". Plans are now in the work to have the organ's bellows restored. Antique tool and furniture collector Frank Scordo, who noticed the absence of a bench for the organ, gifted a mahogany chair to accompany the parlor organ.



SHS Museum

Shrewsbury's Dr. Darwin

Through the years, Shrewsbury has maintained an on-going relationship with Shrewsbury, England. Hence how Shrewsbury, New Jersey was named. During World War II, our community participated in the "Bundles for Britain" program. Shrewsbury residents sponsored a huge fair staged on Sycamore Avenue just east of Broad Street. The road was closed to all traffic, booths were set up to sell a variety of good and home made products, and crowds from the area came to participate. Funds from this event were eventually forwarded to England. In another expression of friendship, the citizens of Shrewsbury rallied to raise funds to assist in the replacement of a church roof in Shrewsbury England. SHS has just received a copy of Dr. Darwin's Waterloo Pigeon sent to us

by Henry & Liz Quinn, 102 Jubilee Road, Shelton Lock, Derby DE249FD. Henry, the author of this book, was once a dinner guest of SHS many years ago. Dr. Darwin's Waterloo Pigeon is an incredible and thought provoking tale concerning the life of Doctor Robert Darwin, father of the world's most famous naturalist Charles Darwin of Shrewsbury England. When Doctor Robert Darwin arrived in the town of Shrewsbury in 1786 he did so with £20 in his possession, a gift from his father a pound (€1.00) for every year of his life. When Darwin died his declared wealth was put at £300,000 –but his personal fortune was estimated to be considerably higher. Henry Quinn offers a unique insight into how the doctor could have amassed such wealth. For many years it was

assumed Darwin's affluence came from his marriage to Susannah Wedgwood, eldest daughter of pottery tycoon Josiah Wedgwood, one of the richest men in England. However Shrewsbury folklore always hinted at darker origins for Doctor Darwin's riches including money-lending, clandestine trading and sharp practice, but the biggest, most lucrative and illicit venture has remained a secret, until now. In collusion with some of the most powerful men of the era, Darwin and his cohorts exploit the outcome of the Battle of Waterloo with great aplomb allowing them to land a spectacular windfall, all thanks to The Waterloo Pigeon.

Learn how to save memories at Archives Preservation Week

9 a.m. on Thursday, April 28 at Monmouth County Library Headquarters, 125 Symmes Drive, Manalapan. For more information, call 732-308-3772.

The Shrewsbury Seal

In 1943, the Shrewsbury Borough Seal was conceptualized by a committee appointed by then Mayor Alfred Beadleston. The committee was chaired by Mrs. Bruce Campbell. The actual art work was that of world renowned equestrian artist George Ford Morris whose residence was directly across from the Presbyterian Church. The seal was officially approved and adopted by the Shrewsbury Borough Council on February 1, 1944. The seal depicts The Council Pine, an image of Christ Church and Shrewsbury's

original settlement date, 1662. Reportedly the Lenni Lenape or, as the English called them, the Delaware Indians, held council at this site. The stately Council Pine was planted by Peter Haddon (another familiar Shrewsbury Street name) on the site where the flag pole rests today at Patriot Isle. The Council Pine was removed in 1924. Mrs. Campbell lived many years at 197 Sycamore Avenue in the home now occupied by the Riddle family. Mrs. Campbell was the mother of Robert R. Campbell who was killed in battle during World

War II. The memory of Bobby Campbell, as he was familiarly called, has been perpetuated by an annual award given to the graduating student at Shrewsbury Boro School whose civic pride, friendliness, and willing cooperation reflect the qualities for which Bobby Campbell was so well known and well liked. The award was established through a fund provided by Philip Meyer who once lived at 41 Beechwood Drive. A plaque listing all the Campbell Award winners is permanently displayed at the School. Robert R. Campbell's name in affixed to a plaque near the flag pole at Patriot Isle honoring his military service to our country.



SHS Receives Grant

Once again, Don Burden, President of **SHS**, has received a 2010 Employee Volunteer Grant (EVG) of \$500.00 in recognition of his volunteer work for SHS. The EVG Program provides supplementary financial support to eligible organizations with which employees of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. volunteer their time. McGraw-Hill's EVG program is designed to encourage employee volunteer involvement in local nonprofit community organizations and institutions that make substantial contributions to the quality of life for all.

Tobacco Cutter Identified

For many years visitors to SHS have been asked to help identify a small wheeled table top machine operated by a small hand crank wheel. Guesses included a cheese cutter, a match stick maker, an Italian pasta cutter, and a candy cutter. During a recent visit to the museum with one of the local Cub Scouts pack, parent Andrew Rose, Blades Run, identified the machine as an Old German TECK 1 Tobacco Cutter, Shredder, used in

the making of cigars. It is built from cast iron, steel, ridged wooden rollers, brass gears and three very sharp cutting blades which can be removed for easy sharpening. Be sure to take a look at this little machine next time you visit SHS. It is fascinating.

Cleaning Out? Think SHS!

Thanks to the Eagle Project of Karl Degenhart, Shrewsbury Boy Scout Troop #50, additional display space is available on the second floor of SHS. If you are in the process of cleaning out your basement or attic and come across some items of historic significance important to the history of Shrewsbury, consider gifting those items to the Shrewsbury Historical Society—Museum, Education & Research Center. County Historian Randall Gabrielan has dubbed Shrewsbury “the cradle of civilization in Monmouth County”.

Hammers on Display

Many have now seen the incredible "Tool Display" or read about it in the media—"SHS Displays more than 1,200 Antique Tools, The Journal—March 2010 and "Hammer Collection A Hit In Shrewsbury" The Two River Times; March 5, 2010 prepared by Eleanor O'Sullivan. Frank Scordo, Tinton Falls, currently has this unique collection on loan to SHS. "The vast collection of hammers, picks, planes, augers, mallets, axes, drills, and other collectables showcase the

creative talents of wood craftsmen, cabinet makers, railroad works, cobblers, blacksmiths, tree men, surgeons, dentists, carpenters and plumbers" as noted in *The Journal*. Included in the collection is the first patented hammer in the United States, owned by Solomon Anderson of South New Berlin, NY, the patent being dated Aug. 20, 1845. Among the visitors to view the collection have been the Homesteaders, Shrewsbury Boy Scout Troop # 50, Cub Scouts, classes from Shrewsbury Boro School, The DAR, and AAUW. And

of course many residents have stopped in to examine the collection. Upon hearing about the collection at SHS, Mr. & Mrs. Harlan Stone, Monmouth Beach, gifted some additional antique tools to SHS. Don't miss the opportunity to see this collection while it is on display on the recently renovated second floor. Special group arrangements can be made by calling (732) 747-3635.

Shrewsbury's 85th Courtesy of "The Story of Shrewsbury 1664-1964 by Richard L. Kraybill

On May 11, 1926, there were 124 voters in the village of Shrewsbury who went to the polls to cast their ballots on the question of whether the village would remain a portion of the township or would be established as a separate borough. The result was 116 in favor of the borough and 8 opposed. The opposition came primarily from residents of the northern part of the village who preferred having the village become a portion of Red Bank. On June 8 the first officials of the Borough of Shrewsbury were elected. This was a little more than a formality because there was no opposition to the slate of candidates who were running for Borough offices. Benjamin J. Parker was elected the first mayor, and the council consisted of Harry G. Borden, William E. Curtis, Michael McGarrity, G. Harold Nevius, Frederick W. Robinson and Harry Sickles. Also elected at that time were Stewart VanVliet as tax collector and Alfred Grover as assessor. The First Council meeting was held on July 19 and it was a happy occasion. The decision to become a borough had been virtually unanimous and the new officials had been unopposed. At this meeting Mayor Elias S. Black of Little Silver presented Mayor Parker with a gavel on behalf of the Little Silver Council and has a token of the esteem and good-will between Little Silver and the newly-created Borough of Shrewsbury. *Note: The gavel is used today to convene and adjourn Council meetings.*

Hazard Monument

One of the largest monuments in the graveyard at Christ Church is that of Edward C. Hazard. The stone was the work of sculptor Daniel Chester French. His best-known work is the sculpture of a seated *Abraham Lincoln* (1920) at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Another of French's work is his well-known statue *The Minute Man*, which was unveiled April 19, 1875 on the centenary of the Battle of Lexington and Concord. His talents are also seen in *The John Harvard Monument* which adorns Harvard Yard in

Cambridge, Massachusetts. Visitors to Columbia University in New York City will witness his familiar *Alma Mater*. Other works include *Standing Lincoln* at the Nebraska State Capitol in Lincoln, Nebraska; the *Samuel Francis du Pont Memorial Fountain* centered in Dupont Circle in Washington, D.C., and Brooklyn and *Manhattan*, seated figures from the Manhattan Bridge. E.C. Hazard was the founder of Hazard's Shrewsbury Manufacturing Company in 1883. Located off Sycamore Avenue in the vicinity of Garden Road,

the three-story brick plant was known locally as the ketchup factory. In addition to the production of ketchup, Worcestershire, mayonnaise, and other sauces, it also served as a cannery for beets, spinach, and mushrooms. While Mr. Hazard died in 1905, the factory continued to operate until 1914 when a disastrous fire gutted the entire building. The building was razed and the bricks from it were used in building some of the homes now standing on Garden Road near the original site of the factory.



Shrewsbury Historical Society

Municipal Complex
419 Sycamore Avenue
PO Box 333
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

PHONE:
732-530-7974

Trustees Relocate

Trustees Bob and Carol Forrester have retired and relocated to their new home at Sunset Beach, North Carolina. Before leaving Shrewsbury, the Forrester's gifted some furniture and personal memorabilia to the Shrewsbury Historical Society.

Trustees Dan and Dianne Petruzella have relocated to Macungie, PA. Dan as you recall, prepared the pen and inks for several of the homes on Sycamore Avenue. These prints have been used in SHS publications with the originals now on display at the museum. Their many years of support of SHS are greatly

appreciated. May they enjoy their new homes looking back at many fond memories of their time as integral members of the Shrewsbury community.

Commerce, Community & Ketchup

The Spring 2011 issue of Red Hot Magazine highlights an interesting article authored by Claudia Ansonge, President of Red Hot Company, Red Bank, about the Unique History of Shrewsbury. After a visit with long time Shrewsbury resident Babs D'Aloio, co-historian for

Shrewsbury, coupled with a tour of the Shrewsbury Historical Society, editor Ansonge was sufficiently motivated to compose a feature article highlighting Shrewsbury for *Red Hot Magazine*. Ms. Ansonge arranged for a photographer to capture many of the highlights of SHS that appear in an

informative collage in the widely distributed magazine. Pick up a copy of Red Hot Magazine at one of the many distribution points within the Two Rivers area or at www.redbankredhot.com.

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